

of older victims; community-based intervention and prevention programs; reauthorization of ombudsman programs and the elder abuse prevention program under the Older Americans Act; measures to protect older people from financial and material exploitation; preferences given to health profession educational programs which require students to receive significant training in treatment issues related to elder abuse, including domestic violence and sexual assault; development of curricula for social workers, health care providers and law enforcement; legal assistance for victims of elder abuse through law school clinical programs; and research about the sexual abuse of older women.

Not even the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) specifically addresses the specific concerns of older women. This bill, however, has been included in VAWA II—introduced earlier this month—to address that oversight. These efforts are vital if we are to adequately respond to the unique health, housing and legal needs of older women. Older women who just want to have a peaceful life. Older women just like Helen Hargrave.

AFRICA: SEEDS OF HOPE ACT OF
1998

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this evening, the distinguished gentleman from Indiana, the Ranking Member of the House International Relations Committee (Mr. HAMILTON) and this Member are introducing legislation that focuses on improving agricultural efficiency in Africa. This legislation is an important compliment to our goal for an invigorated trade strategy with Africa. Several weeks ago the House of Representatives passed, with this Member's support, the African Trade Growth and Opportunities Act and took the very important step toward greater trade with a continent in desperate need of private-sector led economic growth.

By focusing on sustainable agriculture, research, rural finance, and food security, our legislation is directly aimed at helping the 76% of the Sub-Saharan African people who are small farmers. Improving the efficiency of these farmers is crucial to ensuring that our overall trade strategy is successful. As a long-time supporter of aid to Africa through the Development Fund for Africa and other mecha-

nisms, I believe this legislation—in conjunction with our new trade initiatives—helps coordinate and focus America's resources on both trade and aid in Africa.

If trade is to prosper in Sub-Saharan Africa, we need to better direct our scarce aid resources so that they stimulate private sector investment or help ease the suffering in those places either overlooked by the private sector or suffering from disasters. Our legislation attempts to refine our assistance programs for Sub-Saharan Africa and ensure that agriculture and rural development are not neglected. For example, we believe that the microenterprise program and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation are two excellent tools to help remedy rural finance and investment shortcomings. Moreover, we believe our international agricultural research programs can be better coordinated with our domestic agricultural research to benefit farmers in Africa as well as the United States. And, our food assistance programs need to be re-focused on long-term development assistance and not be evaluated on the basis of short-term or immediate results that are anathema to their original purpose.

This Member is especially pleased that this legislation seeks to replenish the Food Security Commodity Reserve and appropriately rename it the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust. The late, distinguished gentleman from Missouri worked tirelessly to ensure that the United States provided humanitarian assistance to those most in need throughout the world. By providing a mechanism to replenish the commodity reserve in times of low agricultural prices, this legislation continues that legacy by ensuring that a reserve for humanitarian purposes will exist when prices are high.

In conclusion, this Member would like to commend Bread for the World for its relentless efforts to reduce hunger and malnutrition throughout the world. This Africa: Seeds of Hope Campaign and our legislation combine to form one more initiative in a long history of successful campaigns by Bread for the World.

TRIBUTE TO THE VILLELLA
FAMILY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the U.S. House of Representatives to pay trib-

ute to an old and trusted family from Riverhead, Long Island as they close the family business that has lovingly served the community for the past four decades.

This week, my good friend Vincent Villella, announced he is closing the family-owned shoe store that his father Gregory opened more than 42 years ago on Main Street in Riverhead, Long Island. Generations of Long Islanders who live around this friendly, tight-knit East End community know the Villella family as more than shoe store proprietors, but as truly part of their extended family. Like other family traditions, parents still take their children to Villella's to buy their new shoes, just as their parents did with them.

As the son of parents who operated a business in downtown Riverhead for years, when I learned the Villella Shoes was going out of business, it truly saddened my heart. An 82-year-old, second-generation shoemaker, Gregory Villella opened his shop in the late 1950s, when downtown Riverhead was a bustling commercial district. Main Street was the place when every family in the community came to buy their shoes, get their haircuts and do their grocery shopping. I can vividly recall memories of my own mother taking me into Villella Shoes to buy a new pair of shoes for school or church.

Like many other mom-and-pop businesses across America, Villella Shoes has been hurt by a changing retail market, as more people do their shopping at the mall or big discount department stores. Though we may welcome the benefits competition brings the consumer, our communities are worse off when we lose good friends and neighbors like Villella Shoes.

Main Street, Riverhead is currently undergoing an economic revival, led by exciting plans to build a waterfront aquarium and to create a downtown arts district that will draw some of the millions in tourist dollars flowing to the East End. Thank to the good work of new Riverhead Town Supervisor Vincent Villella and the tenacity of local residents who refuse to let their downtown die, the glory days of Riverhead are no longer part of its history, but rather an exciting new part of a glorious future.

Nonetheless, Riverhead will lose a piece of its heart and soul when Villella Shoes, departs and each of us who care deeply about this community will miss it. Thankfully, the Villella family will still be here with us as we work to restore and revitalize downtown Riverhead. We have been blessed to have them as part of the East End, Long Island family for the past 42 years